

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1915.

## When Cost of Living Really Was High

TO those who continue to repine over the high cost of living, attention is directed respectfully to "War News Fifty Years Ago," as it is reproduced on this page to-day. That collection of interesting happenings recites the sale of meat in the Richmond market at the very moderate price of \$90 a bushel.

Other necessities of life, including newspapers, were at a similar premium. The subscribers to the old Dispatch paid something like \$100 a week for the privilege of being kept informed of the progress of the war between the States. Nowadays the war in Europe is rather more completely reported at a much more moderate charge.

So cheer up, folks of Richmond! The worst that can befall this city happened a half century ago, and not within the last month or year.

## Parlors for Beau

THE Milwaukee Y. W. C. A. has had put to it a serious proposition for the establishment of a courtship parlor. It is argued that just so long as there are pretty girls in the Y. W. C. A. there will be men in the office, and the beau question cannot be side-tracked. No man being who thinks will deny the conclusion.

On the surface, this will appear as a humorous episode, or perhaps some of the world's long-faced brethren and sisters will be shocked. But in an institution of the sort, not only is it true that girls are entitled to opportunity to love and be loved, but it is essential to human happiness that this opportunity be not withheld for any consideration whatever.

By all means, put courtship parlors in the homes of girls, whether such homes be individual or institutional. Hang up the mistletoe in season, and let them play post-office and clasp-in-and-clasp-out. The mating instinct is strong in a healthy race, and it is far better to have courtship parlors indoors than to establish them on street corners and park benches.

## Sound Advice to the City

THE Chamber of Commerce expresses the conservative and common sense view when it urges the city government to sell the Ford lot to the State, to furnish a site for the erection of a State office building. The State needs an office building and can afford to build it, while if the city needs such a structure, as it very probably does, it needs other things so much more than comparison is futile.

Three-fourths of Richmond's streets are unpaved, and there are great public improvements in the recently annexed territory that should not be delayed. Modern paving would add immeasurably more to the city's health, cleanliness and business prosperity than any municipal building that could possibly be constructed.

It is true that some means of assessing paving improvement in part against abutting property-owners will have to be devised before extensive operations can be contemplated, but such an arrangement ought not to be impossible. There is a sewer tax, and for sidewalks the city collects the whole cost from the property-owner. Why cannot a similar policy be devised and legally fortified, that will result in substantial accretions to our mileage of smoothly paved thoroughfares?

## A Public Benefactor

WILLIAM KING is dead. He died in Philadelphia. To the average person this news conveys nothing. William King was a chef. Think of a chafing dish, then of chicken, and immediately the cultivated taste exclaims: "Ah! Chicken à la King!" Precisely. William King invented the costly dish that bears the name. He is dead, but chicken à la King will live long after him.

He who can make a new dish is a public benefactor. From the crust and water of poverty to the Norwegian grouse, pheasant and bubbles of affluence is a long step. Now Chef King stepped in between the crust and the pheasant and invented something to make chicken more attractive. It had the added advantage of being possible as a leftover in quiet homes. What's left of chicken à la King might be entrusted with the responsibility of becoming something else, again, the next day.

Again, let it be known that William King was a public benefactor. He died in one direction what Edison and Marconi and Santos-Dumont did in another. And, in so far as he added a touch of joy to the normal man's pleasure of eating, William King's name should be remembered, if only to encourage others to be equally industrious in the pursuit of culinary knowledge.

## Chicago Must Look to Her Laurels

CHICAGOANS are justly proud of their great pork-packing establishments, which have reduced porcine assassination to a finer art even than modern war has made of the butchery of men. When a stranger visits Chicago, the three points of interest

certain to be exhibited by the proud native are Dearborn Avenue, the University of Chicago and the pork-packing factories. The native will glibly relate how many hogs can be disposed of per minute, and the unsophisticated stranger always gasps with astonishment.

But it appears that Germany is about to go Chicago one better. It is estimated that the pig population of Germany numbers 20,000,000. Pigs are hearty feeders, as all farmers can testify, and Germany has no supply of food for them. The people require all of the grain, and as for slops—why, there are no slops at present in Germany. The government has issued broadcast cookbooks telling how succulent and nourishing dishes may be made out of potato peelings. This is very sad for the pigs. Soldiers can live on half-rations or almost no rations at all—like Lee's army—and fight all the better for empty stomachs, but a lean pig is no good as a pig.

Therefore, Germany is going to decree a great massacre of hogs. The 20,000,000 will be reduced by 16,000,000, slaughtered at the rate of 400,000 a day. Already Chicago is green with envy. Her crown of glory is to be taken from her. What are the trifling hecatombs offered up in the South-side packing-houses compared to the extermination of 16,000,000 swine at one fell swoop?

## Virginia's Escape From Inequality

NOW that the Assembly has finished its work, it is believed that the good accomplished will be speedily evident. We have cut loose from a tax system which has always been unsatisfactory, and which is steadily declining in the public estimate in those States where it continues in force. Rhode Island has just issued a tax report, and it is a jeremiad, a series of complaints. The abuses which it is hoped we are at last rid of continue in full force in the microscopic Commonwealth.

Listen to the familiar burden of this song: "The employment of different standards of valuation by the several municipalities leads to inequalities, and an unfair distribution of the State tax. The small amounts of certain classes of property listed and the assessed valuation of real estate in some instances is so low that it would be sufficient cause for serious anxiety, if the assessments were even approximately correct. The use of different percentages of the full and fair cash value required by law for purposes of assessment is manifestly unfair to those communities which assess their property in accordance with the law, and this is the most serious objection to the practice."

And the following is a testimony to the juggling of property when taxed for both State and local purposes:

"In the absence of some disaster, the actual removal from the jurisdiction of physical property, or a change in the occupations of a considerable number of its inhabitants, it is not reasonable to expect a falling off of 18 per cent in the valuation of tangible property in one farming and residential community, especially where a fair gain in the valuation of buildings and improvements, as well as a normal increase in land values, is shown. It is noticed also that the valuation of intangibles in this jurisdiction is substantially the same as last year, and that owners of land and buildings in certain localities practically escape taxation on tangible property."

We find a municipality in no financial difficulty, with a moderate tax rate, which has suffered no great loss, either in capital invested or in population, and showing at least all the outward signs of stability, returning the assessed valuation of its land at 36 per cent less than last year."

Comments are hardly needed. The whole report shows the wrong and injustice of the tax system from which Virginia has at last escaped.

## Education

WHAT is education? The other day a Harvard professor declared that no man can call himself educated who is unacquainted with the language of the ancient Assyrians, or who cannot discuss the philosophies of the Yogi. It is commonly accepted that a man of education must understand Greek and Latin and one of knowledge, as distinguished from education, must have a command of English, French and German. As to mathematics, is a man educated who cannot do a logarithm? The five-year-old son of an assistant district attorney in Pittsburgh speaks seven languages, including Esperanto, and is also a botanist and an astronomer. Is he educated, or being educated, or is he merely a freak?

Very few men have what they themselves would call an education, and a vast congregation of human beings cleared out of college with systems full of information have the slightest practical use of all they have acquired. The man who has turned himself into an encyclopedia is very useful to himself and a choice collection of spirits, and in a contributory way is of great value to the world at large. But isn't he fearfully lonesome?

In recent years the standard of education, as applied to public schools, anticipating the fact that relatively few scholars go beyond the sixth grade, has been forced to include a heroic jamming of advanced studies, in the hope that he who must perforce stop short of college may be at least fitted for a reasonable exercise of his intellectual endowment. Every year or two something else is added, some little push is given the scientific jamming of facts into the brain of man. Here and there men and women study with huge effort the business of making children precociously learned, and children like that one in Pittsburgh are regarded with wonder, admiration and envy by mothers of fretted kids, who would a heap rather play with mud pies.

Just what a human being requires to go creditably through his threescore and ten years will always be a question of taste and locality. Fundamentally, that which gives a man or woman enough of the world's knowledge to create a desire for more, is education practically applied. And after all, the Pittsburgh boy to the contrary, and the Harvard professor notwithstanding, that is the common sense conception of the term.

News from Pittsburgh continues to add to the dismal chorus that is saddening the lives of the calamity howlers. Heavy demands for structural steel have lighted the fires in all the lurid suburbs of that city, and thousands of men have been added to pay rolls of the iron and steel masters. Et tu, Pittsburgh?

The captain of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich probably will have an opportunity to realize what is meant by the injustice and ingratitude of princes. Or will the Kaiser, when he condemns the sinking of the William P. Frye, speak with his tongue in his cheek?

## SONGS AND SAWS

### Modernity.

"Fly, fly with me," the lover cried,  
"And we shall rule some tropic isle."  
"That would be nice," the maiden sighed,  
"But somewhat lonely after while."

"Suppose, instead, we let that slide,  
And hang around where lights beguile  
The dancing hosts to dip and glide—  
Where we can see—and get—a smile?"

'Twas so agreed—they canned the isle,  
And joys of solitude beside—  
And now each night he blows his pile  
In trottiers where the dance-mad hide.

The Penitentiary Says:  
When an automobile is about to run you down, don't become excited and try to escape. The driver is sure to get you anyhow, and it is so much more dignified to meet disaster standing still.

A Model of Exactness.  
"Is this clock showing  
careful about keeping  
appointments?"  
"Very, indeed. She is  
always exactly three-  
quarters of an hour  
late."

The Distinction.  
Grubbs—Does Bachelus ever have dreams of matrimony?  
Stubbs—Not dreams exactly. They are more like nightmares.

Upholding the Standard.  
"Times are not what they once were," declared the devotee of the past, "and men in public life have degenerated."  
"Oh, I don't know," responded the modernist. "Congressman Tammany has not been in politics many years, and yet he has dragged out nearly a million."

An Explanation.  
It's funny that the price of bread  
Should keep on mounting higher;  
Perhaps the yeast that it contains  
Makes it thus to aspire.

### THE TATTLER.

## Chats With Virginia Editors

"Millinery is quite military," says the Hanover Herald. Well, it always was the occasion of a good many family wars.

It is pleasant to see the press of Virginia regaining some of its old-time vivacity of descriptive phrase. The Staunton Daily News contributes this to the journalistic revival: "A Mr. C. H. Cline, of the county, made the statement before the Board of Aldermen Thursday night that the press was subsidized by the telephone company, the implication being that he meant the Staunton newspapers. In so far as the Daily News is concerned, Mr. Cline has never offered any communication that has been refused, and his charge of corruption is an unqualified falsehood from beginning to end."

This is almost worthy of the discussion evolved by a prohibition election.

And the Covington Virginian, referring to the sale of that beverage known as "near-beer" in Covington, says: "This evil—for such it is when it becomes an intolerable nuisance—is unfortunately one of the outgrowths of the fanatical form of prohibition. All men who are not moral perverts favor temperance, but the prohibition laws of the Southern States have, unfortunately, been framed too largely by politicians—some of them beastly drunkards, who hide their sins behind the mask of prohibition. When honest laws are framed by honest, temperate men, and not protectionist, hypocrites, public-trough feeders and hypocrites, the 'near beer' evil and all the other evils that grow out of the popular form of prohibition will disappear." That is quite up to the prohibition election standard.

The Fincastle Herald points the way to prosperity in this fashion: "The average Iowa farmer raises enough poultry to pay all his grocery bills. The high price of poultry in Botetown County suggests that we might emulate the example of the Iowa farmer. Town people are now paying for well-grown hens what they used to pay for turkeys, and turkeys are so high that the average man cuts his turkey rations."

Current Editorial Comment  
The government recognizes a difference between big business and business that is big is indicated by the call which President Wilson has issued for a Pan-American commercial conference, to be held in Washington on May 10. The leaders of Central and South America are invited to send as delegates their ministers of Finance and some of the leading bankers. The American delegation will be made up of government officials and bankers from the larger part of the country. These will constitute the principal part of the delegation. Representatives of the various American governments will be invited also to take a part. It may be that the conference will help to open the eyes of the United States to the truth that South America as greatly deserves financial assistance from the North as the United States deserves business development in the South. There can be no important trade relations between two countries until financial relations are satisfactory. For example, as long as the Argentine does its banking through Paris or London, American imports will be hampered. The great opportunity for Northern bankers is at hand—and for the bankers, the groups and syndicates, not the small institutions with little capital at their command. The conference at Washington, it is to be noted, is to be participated in by the leading bankers of the various countries. One of the chief objects of this gathering is the establishment of a credit and exchange system between North and South America.—Indianapolis News.

Norman R. Hamilton, collector of customs for this port, is entitled to high praise for his able and diplomatic manner of handling the most difficult and delicate situation which has confronted any officer of the United States government since the war in Europe began. We have been in position to watch the collector's conduct from the moment the German cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich arrived in this port until he made his final report to the government, and we can testify that he acted with wisdom and discretion in what he did, and that he was as prudent in what he left unsaid as in what he did. Mr. Hamilton is a young man, and he has had little experience in public office. On unexpectedly, with a suddenness and in the history of the customs administration, it might well have rattled the official brain of a veteran, but it did not rattle Collector Hamilton. He attended to every detail with order and precision, and rounded off the transaction in a manner that deserves the grateful acknowledgment of the powers that be.—Newport News Press.

The new Federal law which prescribes strict regulations for the sale of narcotic poisons is bringing to light the cases of many victims of the drug habit who have been driven to desperation. How numerous these victims are is shown by the fact that the Board of State Aid and Charities has felt itself impelled to provide for their treatment and relief throughout the year. Such a lax attitude is left in the hands of and we may well be thankful that some of it is to prove as effectual as it promises to be in preventing the formation of such habits. The revelation is not only startling, but it carries with it a rebuke to the lax and State administration. These drugs ought never to have been

sold carelessly or promiscuously. But they evidently have been, and the result is a large crop of "dope fiends." The State has been disregarded or treated with indifference for years. But what a change when Uncle Sam steps in and raises a warning finger! Then doctors and druggists and drug users "sit up and take notice." They don't try to fool with him. Why is it that a State seems to find it so much harder to enforce a law than the Federal government finds it? We do not want to see rights blotted out, but if States do not learn how to enforce laws, much respect for their ordinances as the Federal government is able to inspire for its regulations, they will, in time, inevitably blot them out themselves.—Baltimore Sun.

Origin of the Blues  
Happiness and unhappiness are outside of theorizing or philosophy. A trivial incident sends our spirits up or down. "Thinking backward" is how the Germans describe melancholia. The loneliness of the evening for days gone by or for far-off scenes creep unannounced into the heart. Real troubles do not challenge the soul to combat, and there is a grim pleasure in meeting and grappling with adversity. The slumping of precious illusions, the chilling fog of misunderstanding, jealousy, vision, illusions which are our playthings and our reasons to be alive no longer gleam and glisten. Drab reality supplants the radiant ideal. Every person has believed in his inner tribulation. "No one as oppressed as I walks this earth," complains the unsophisticated wayfarer. Fatalists there be who argue that no one is happier than any one else, and that he who goes down to the depths of woe merely is paying for his ascents to the pinnacles of bliss.—Detroit News.

War News Fifty Years Ago  
(From the Richmond Dispatch, March 15, 1865.)  
There are a plenty of rumors from Petersburg, and, in fact, all along the line, but there is no definite war news from any point that is reachable and nothing that is reliable.  
The War Department has the closed-lip policy carried to perfection. There is absolutely no chance to get a word of news from there. Who has issued the order that closes all lips so tightly nobody seems to know.  
Four hundred Federal prisoners will leave Rockwell this morning by the flag of truce boat bound down the river for exchange and shipment to the North.  
All day yesterday the Federals were threatening an attack on the Confederate lines in Chesterfield County, but they decided to abandon it. At least, up to 9 o'clock last night nothing of a serious character developed.  
By actual count, Grant's army has up to date destroyed all of the houses on sixty-nine plantations in Prince George County.  
A raiding party of the Federals last week visited and partially destroyed the village of Franklin, on the Norfolk-Seaboard Railroad.  
It is learned from the Northern papers that Major-General Levi Whiting, who was wounded and taken prisoner at the fall of Petersburg, in North Carolina, died last week at Governor's Island, N. Y. His remains were buried from Trinity Church, in New York City, by his relatives and friends, who were Northern people.  
Colonel W. H. Hagan, of Staunton, was murdered in cold blood in the streets of Waynesboro by the Yankees after he had surrendered as a prisoner of war. Colonel Harman was the grand master of Masons in Virginia at the time of his death.  
A New York paper just to hand says: "A party of rebel cavalry under the command of a nephew of ex-Governor Leitcher, of Virginia, attempted to make a crossing at Muddy Creek branch, on the Upper Potomac. They were met by the Hampshire First Cavalry, and defeated, and young Leitcher and ten of his men were killed."  
Orders have been issued by Federal General Fry that the draft in New York City be commenced to-day. Lively times are expected.  
Gold is down to 193 in New York City, and but little of it offering.  
The Richmond city markets continue to be bare of all seasonable articles, such as vegetables, etc. Meat sold yesterday for \$90 a bushel.

The Voice of the People  
Former Virginian Condemns Germany.  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
The Richmond Times-Dispatch of March 6th came to hand and I was glad to see the appearance of my old "home paper" of twenty years ago, more or less grateful to me.  
I notice, however, that your editorial policy is in line with those of many other papers in the country. While evidently aware of the exact status of the belligerents abroad, you are evidently making a strenuous effort at "neutrality."  
I have carefully studied the issues involved, and I hope you will allow me to state that the constant effort on the part of some of our editors to combine Germany and England in a common protest is a grave injustice to the cause of international ethics and to Great Britain.  
In my official capacity as I travel around the United States I find that the judgment of most intelligent men is in favor of Germany. She has been guilty of international crime, and while our neutrality may prevent our taking pronounced condemnation and protest from the Congress of the United States, the Legislature of the individual States and the combined press of our American republic, to be silent when a vigorous protest might be effective, is to be "perpetrators criminals" in the greatest crime of modern history!  
WILLIAM M. WALTON,  
Archdeacon of Arkansas,  
Little Rock, Ark., March 11, 1915.

Queries and Answers  
Old Violin.  
How may I discover whether an old violin is a genuine "old master" or not?  
W. W. INGRAM.  
By no means except the judgment of an expert. If you will send me an addressed envelope, we shall be pleased to send the names and addresses of several recognized authorities on the subject.

A Date.  
Please tell me what day of the month was the first Saturday in November, 1911.  
X. X.  
The 4th.

Naval Academy.  
Please tell me how to find subjects covered in the first year at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and whether certificate from a preparatory school will admit without entrance examination.  
P. O. MILLER.  
The commandant will have sent you pamphlets covering all matters of interest to one proposing to enter the academy. The grade of school whose matriculation is recognized in lieu of entrance examination is set out in some of the circulars of information.

War Losses.  
Is it likely that we may recover from the government losses by the destruction of property during the Civil War?  
ANXIOUS.  
Mrs. Caroline Barbard. Such books as we have looked into for answer to it, have not been able to make reference to Mr. Lord's religious connection.

The Horse.  
Does military science believe that the horse will disappear from warfare?  
INQUIRER.  
Not so far as we know.

Mayor.  
Please give the pronunciation of the word "mayor."  
M. C. T.  
Ma-er.

Writers.  
Who was "Clairibel," the ballad writer of fifty years ago? To what religious denomination does Lord, the author of "Beacon Lights of History," belong?  
J. N. H.  
Mrs. Caroline Barbard. Such books as we have looked into for answer to it, have not been able to make reference to Mr. Lord's religious connection.

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Does military science believe that the horse will disappear from warfare?  
INQUIRER.  
Not so far as we know.

## IN CASE OF NEED

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Indianapolis News.

## BREATHE THE FRESH AIR

Breathe the fresh air you can get, night and day. That's what fresh air is for. The fearsome legend about the baleful influences of "night air" is only another of the carefully-nursed insular superstitions of our ancestors, according to Senior Surgeon Banks, of the United States Public Health Service. Whence this superstition arose may only be surmised. Perhaps it is a survival of the primeval cult of sun worship which led the ancients to classify anything outside the sphere of solar influence.

Our forebears were wont to caution their offspring to "be careful about the night air," or children were ordered to "come in out of the night air." It is perhaps fortunate for the children living in the Arctic Circle, where the nights are six months long, that the Eskimo mothers do not entertain this crude notion about night air, else their progeny would spend half the year indoors.

This idea is generally prevalent, and even one of our well-known flowers is loaded down with the horrible name of "day nightshade," as a sort of verbal relic of this old notion. The low-lying mist or fog that sometimes comes about the surface of the earth under certain atmospheric conditions, after sunset, was held, is held, to be "miasmatic" and pregnant with lethal possibilities. This is worthy of all respect that should be put to any hoary superstition, but its place is in the speckled jars of an archaeological museum, not in the showroom of modern intellectual life.

The night air, minus the sun, is no different from the atmosphere of a sunless day. The atmospheric envelope of the earth does not change from benign to malignant in the twinkling of an eye after sundown. It is still composed of oxygen, nitrogen, argon and carbon dioxide in the normal proportions for the given locality. The open-air treatment of tuberculosis and its kindred allies

had first to combat this venerable jargon about the deadliness of night air, and only the remarkable results of this hygienic cult to its cure brought the superstitious to a realization of the silliness of their ingrained noctophobia. This generation has witnessed the emancipation of human beings in respect to the value of fresh air, whether in bulk or in smaller "drafts." From being a people immersed in hermetically sealed rooms at night, breathing our own bodily exhalations over and over again, a constantly increasing number of persons are sleeping in the open, or at least with open windows, summer and winter, to their great benefit. In the morning they are refreshed with the pure oxygen of the air breathed during sleep, not "stewed" nor "sweaty" after eight hours spent in respiration and re-respiring second-hand and shopworn air in a closed bedroom.

A story from the trenches in France is that a soldier wrote home to his wife to open the windows at night, as he had found that the night air "didn't hurt one bit." That is the experience of all the advocates of this sensible custom—once tried the old custom of sealing oneself in an airtight bedroom is never renewed. Diseases which involve the lungs can usually be traced to their beginning in poorly ventilated sleeping apartments, inside rooms that do not have a share of the atmosphere. Nothing can live well or long without oxygen in the air, and it was given to us for breathing, night and day, not to be taken in sparingly, as if it were a dangerous potion. Some people are actually afraid of ordinary, common air. These cringing persons who open their windows at night will tell you, unanimously, that they cannot breathe in a chamber unless the window is raised; their sense of comfort and vigor demands the life-giving qualities of fresh air. No greater prophylactic device can be promulgated than to breathe all the fresh atmospheric air you can get, night and day.

## Seventy Years in Service

ERIE, Pa., March 13.—Completing his seventh year of successful cruising on the Great Lakes, the Wolverine, formerly the Michigan, the oldest ironclad in the world, now in its winter berth in the harbor here, is undergoing another general overhauling preparatory to resuming its duty as a training ship for the naval reserve.

The Wolverine, as it is now known, was launched in this port November 9, 1843, and went into commission August 1, 1844. Since then it has been in active commission, either as a warship or survey ship and incidentally as a training ship for the naval reserves of the Great Lakes, and although nearing the three-quarter century mark, is still in good condition, and if necessary, perhaps, could easily sink anything afloat on the Lakes.

The Wolverine and the Michigan are the only two armored vessels on the Great Lakes under government ownership. Having taken advantage of the occasion made when the old Michigan was launched to place a British warship. In connection with the history of the Wolverine, many interesting things could be told. It is the most interesting of the only ironclad in the world, was built miles away from the scene of future activities, having been built at Pittsburgh and shipped to Lake Erie on a barge.

It was in commission nearly eight years before railroad connections with this point were established, and had then made a trip through the chain of many Indian chiefs have been entertained in its cabin, and during the Civil War it saw some stirring times. It then guarded nearly 2,000 Confederate prisoners confined on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie, and would have been an active part had it been possible to get the boat through the Welland Canal.

Unfortunately, when its services would have been of the greatest value to the government along the Atlantic Coast, during the months immediately preceding the launching of the Monitor, when the Confederate ram Merrimack was practically cleaning up the Federal fleet, it was discovered the boat's great beam made it impossible to get it to the coast unless it should be taken apart and shipped in sections. This might have been done had not the government anticipated the organization of an auxiliary Confederate army in Canada, and it decided that it was better to retain the ship on the Lakes to prevent the landing of an expeditionary force from across the border.

When on guard duty on Johnson's Island a plot was laid by the Confederates to capture and convert the warship into a commerce destroyer as well as to attempt the bombardment of Lake ports. According to the plan the vessel would have had its base on the Canadian shore, probably at Windsor. The plot was discovered in time to prevent its execution, and the Michigan was saved.

It was the Michigan, as then still known, which stopped the Fenian invasion of Canada in 1866, when it overhauled the transport carrying reinforcements outside of Buffalo, and scuttling back.

## Admits Situation Grave

LONDON, Friday, March 5.—The Daily Chronicle says that Theodor Wolff, chief editor of the Berlin Tageblatt, contributes an interesting article to his paper dealing with the bombardment of the Dardanelles, from which, the paper says, it is clear that he is one of the few German journalists of prominence who appreciate the situation which the allies' progress in the strait will create.

Dr. Wolff says he has no illusions about the intention of the allies in forcing a passage, and admits that, if they are successful, the result will be of tremendous import.

He says, first, an intention to create uneasiness in Constantinople and strengthen the hands of the opponents of Enver and Talaat. This might force the Porte either to conclude a separate peace with the allies, or to withdraw the army threatening the Suez Canal. The second object in view is to stiffen Roumania and Bulgaria against the central monarchies. Von Hindenburg's recent victory and the evacuation of Bukovina have, according to Dr. Wolff, taken the strength out of the movement led by the Roumanian leader, Take Ionescu, warning her that a power which declines to take part in the conflict cannot expect any portion of the spoils.

Italy seems to be Dr. Wolff's chief hope. The Italians are a nation, he says, which reckons coolly and carefully, and it is just possible that the British politicians who are counting on its co-operation are in the position of the milkmaid in the fable who engaged prematurely in counting her chickens.

Besides, asks Dr. Wolff, will not the possession of Constantinople be decided on European battlefields, and not in the Dardanelles? He recognizes, however, the danger, and reluctantly quotes from a leading Swiss journal, which roundly declares that war, unavoidable if Italy is not squared with the Trentino, and that, if the Trentino is not freed, revolution is certain as well as war.

(Springfield Ledger.)

Perhaps some future historian will note the fact that the Massachusetts House debated earnestly the licensing of cats during the most critical hours of the greatest of world wars.

Pennsylvania Prosperity.  
(Philadelphia Ledger.)

Fifteen thousand Pennsylvania farmers own automobiles and more are buying. And the best of it is they don't have to get up before daybreak to feed the critters.

On the Sacred Prayer Rug.  
(Columbia State.)

If the Sultan still has that prayer rug, this appears to be the psychological time to use it.